

# **News**

*Macomb County  
Board of Commissioners*



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## **Regional Leaders Announce Formation of R-PATH; Talk Collaboration and Mass Transit at 2011 Summit**

CLINTON TOWNSHIP, Mich. — A coalition of county commissioners from Macomb, Oakland, Wayne, Washtenaw, and St. Clair counties and members of the Detroit City Council today announced the formation of Regional Partners Advocating Transit Here (R-PATH) at the 2011 Southeast Michigan Regional Summit held in Clinton Township.

R-PATH will serve as an advocacy group for the creation of a Regional Transit Authority in the metropolitan Detroit area. The voluntary, bi-partisan group consists of a core of officials, currently: Macomb County Commissioners David Flynn, Bob Smith, Jim Carabelli and Board Chair Kathy D. Vosburg; Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh and Detroit City Council President Pro-Tem Gary Brown; Wayne County Commission Vice Chair Alisha Bell; Oakland County Commissioners David W. Potts and Jim Nash; Washtenaw Commissioners Kristin Judge and Board Chair Conan Smith; and St. Clair County Board Chair Jeff Bohm.

The announcement was made at the yearly meeting of regional leaders (formerly the Tri-county Summit), which was expanded this year to include the participation of Washtenaw and St. Clair counties. The topics of discussion during the event were regional collaboration and mass transit. More than 200 community and government leaders attended.

“This was the perfect opportunity to bring together key regional players with the intention of forging a common goal and laying the groundwork to reshape transit in our area,” said Macomb County Board Chair Kathy D. Vosburg.

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The event, held at both Macomb Community College's Lorenzo Cultural Center and Rojo Mexican Bistro at The Mall at Partridge Creek, was anchored by a presentation and panel discussion from Denver, Colo. officials on the benefits of mass transit, the obstacles they encountered, and the "lessons learned" while developing an RTA.

"We are fortunate enough to have the expertise of well-seasoned transit officials from Denver to draw from as we set out toward the creation of an RTA for our region," said Macomb County Commissioner Bob Smith. "They bring with them a wealth of knowledge and good advice."

The city of Denver reports a \$4 return for communities on every \$1 invested in mass transit.

"Establishing a regional transit system will be a game-changer for the social and economic development of our region," said Macomb County Commissioner David Flynn. "It's time for the leadership of southeast Michigan to create a Regional Transit Authority that will allow our community to capture federal dollars."

The summit also featured a speech on the power of regional collaboration from Chairman of the Michigan Food and Beverage Association, Ed Deeb, and a presentation on creative leadership and teamwork from best-selling author/public speaker, John U. Bacon. Hosting duties for the 2012 summit were also accepted by Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh.

Macomb County hosted its last summit in 2007, aboard The Ovation, with a focus on water quality. Hosting duties alternate between participants yearly, with event costs paid for by summit sponsors. The first summit was hosted in 1998 by Wayne County, the Michigan State Fair, and the Michigan Association of Counties.

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